

100823 Meeker Christian Church Hamas attacks Israel

Hamas launched a devastating attack on Israel yesterday morning. The news reports are horrific. We look into this world impact event this morning. Perhaps we will get back to the planned sermon schedule at a later date, but right now this news is a priority for us.

Witness this video clip:...

I received this email from Tom and Brenda Gray this morning in response to my “pray for Israel” message sent to our Church mailing list yesterday morning: “Thank you for this update Jim. Heather (our Jesse’s wife) has family visiting there, they are locked down in a hotel at the moment. Prayers for them please Lenore and family.”

I asked the Lord yesterday while writing this for guidance in comforting and encouraging you in this turmoil called life - but at the same time to warn and challenge you to get ready for what lies ahead, and perhaps very soon.

I start by establishing this eternal truth: 2 Peter 3:9 *The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.*

Romans 8:28 *And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.*

The message of the Bible is of course first and foremost that Jesus is the Messiah and the only way to heaven is by accepting Him as our personal Lord and Savior. Then the Bible reveals that it is God’s desire that everyone would make that commitment, but the reality on earth as exposed in the Bible - is that satan will tempt and lead many away from God’s righteousness. Therefore there will be lots of barbaric things happen on earth that everyone is caught up in, in spite of their personal conviction or presumed innocence or outright ignorance. The events in Israel are exactly that - and do not in general come as a surprise to many of us, though the specific instance and timing is a surprise.

Some will suggest this type of thing has happened over and over in Israel. That is correct. It is correct because all these things are within the parameters given of the end

2. time prophecies and is therefore a clarion call to faith renewal and scriptural conviction and commitment in our lives.

Why am I so concerned? One reason is Psalm 122:6 *Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:* “*May they prosper who love you.* That is a straight forward call to action of everyone who claims belief in the one true Sovereign God of the universe. Praying for Israel is our sacred duty. **And so we pray...**

Isaiah 62:1-12 is not only a Messianic prophecy but an eternal promised prophecy for all ages: as I read, listen to these 2,700 year old prophecies and enlightenment message to us:

*For Zion's sake I will not hold My peace,  
And for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,  
Until her righteousness goes forth as brightness,  
And her salvation as a lamp that burns.  
2 The Gentiles shall see your righteousness,  
And all kings your glory.  
You shall be called by a new name,  
Which the mouth of the LORD will name.  
3 You shall also be a crown of glory  
In the hand of the LORD,  
And a royal diadem  
In the hand of your God.  
4 You shall no longer be termed Forsaken,  
Nor shall your land any more be termed Desolate;  
But you shall be called Hephzibah, and your land Beulah;  
For the LORD delights in you,  
And your land shall be married.  
5 For as a young man marries a virgin,  
So shall your sons marry you;  
And as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride,  
So shall your God rejoice over you.  
6 I have set watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem;  
They shall never hold their peace day or night.  
You who make mention of the LORD, do not keep silent,  
7 And give Him no rest till He establishes  
And till He makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth.  
8 The LORD has sworn by His right hand  
And by the arm of His strength:  
“Surely I will no longer give your grain*

**3.** *As food for your enemies;*

*And the sons of the foreigner shall not drink your new wine,  
For which you have labored.*

**9** *But those who have gathered it shall eat it,*

*And praise the LORD;*

*Those who have brought it together shall drink it in My holy courts.”*

**10** *Go through, Go through the gates! Prepare the way for the people;*

*Build up, Build up the highway! Take out the stones, Lift up a banner for the peoples!*

**11** *Indeed the LORD has proclaimed To the end of the world: “Say to the daughter of Zion, ‘Surely your salvation is coming; Behold, His reward is with Him, And His work before Him.’”*

**12** *And they shall call them The Holy People, The Redeemed of the LORD; And you shall be called – “Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken.”*

You church family are those called “*The Holy People, The Redeemed of the LORD;*” Your earthly comfort and peace results **not** from the life on this earth, but the promised reward of our eternal inheritance.

These present-day events in Israel are not a product of the last 100 years since Israel was raised up as a state May 14, 1948. Rather these events go back to Abraham 2,000 years before Jesus and Abraham’s blessing bestowed on Isaac and not to Ishmael. That is a tremendous and valuable study for a call to obedient righteous living and how it affects others, in that case from 2,000 BC into our own age. Hamas is the lineage of Ishmael, The Jews of the lineage of Isaac.

To help our understanding of these events, let me read a report from yesterday’s (Reuters) - The Palestinian group Hamas has launched a surprise attack from Gaza into Israel, in one of the most serious escalations in the Israel-Palestinian conflict in years.

What is Hamas? - Hamas, or the Islamic Resistance Movement, was founded in 1987 during the first Palestinian Intifada, or uprising. It is backed by Shi’ite Iran and shares the Islamist ideology of the Muslim Brotherhood, which was established in Egypt in the 1920s.- It has run the Gaza Strip since 2007, after a brief civil war with forces loyal to the Fatah movement led by President Mahmoud Abbas, who is based in the West Bank and also heads the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

Here is a picture followed by a description of the land of Gaza in relation to the land of Israel. Gaza was part of the Ottoman Empire, before it was occupied by the United Kingdom (1918–1948), Egypt (1948–1967), and then Israel, which in 1993 granted the Palestinian Authority in Gaza

4. limited self-governance through the Oslo Accords. Since 2007, the Gaza Strip has been *de facto* governed by Hamas, which claims to represent the State of Palestine and the Palestinian people.

Another very interesting possibility in all of this is in relation to Trumpets mentioned throughout scripture: trumpets are a call to action. Blowing the trumpet could mean a call to war, a call to assemble, or call to march.

Rosh HaShanah is the Jewish New Year celebration or the Feast of Trumpets celebrated in late summer/early autumn on our calendar it was September 16, 2023. This catastrophe initiated by Hamas in Israel is like a trumpet sounding to remind God's people of yet another fulfillment of prophecy. The trumpets are calling for all people to repent of their sins. They are the sound of anticipation for the return of our Lord. This and all wars like yesterdays headlines: "Ukraine reports the deadliest attack of Russia killed 51 in a public place." 2,000 killed in Afganastan earthquake. On and on..

*Matthew: 24:6-8 And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. 7 For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. 8 All these are the beginning of sorrows.*

In the New Testament, Paul refers to the trumpet sound of the rapture in 1 Corinthians 15:51-52 *Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed — 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.*

The apostle Paul is telling us that as the last trumpet sounds, the dead will rise and we will be changed. We must understand that trumpets will signal the people of God to gather and be ready to meet our Savior.

This barbaric attack began on the first day of the Feast of Tabernacles that begins at the time the fall harvest had just been completed. The Feast of Tabernacles, also known as the Feast of Booths and *Sukkot*, is the seventh and last feast that the Lord commanded Israel to observe. The Feast of Tabernacles was instituted by God as a way of reminding Israelites in every generation of their deliverance by God from Egypt. Of course, all the feasts are also

5. significant in that they foreshadow the work and actions of the coming Messiah. It is a time of joyous celebration as the Israelites celebrated God's continued provision for them in the current harvest and remembered His provision and protection during the 40 years in the wilderness. Christ came in the flesh to dwell among us for a temporary time when He was born in the manger, and He is coming again to dwell among us as Lord of Lords. For us, the Feast of Tabernacles not only looks forward to His second coming but also reflects back on His first coming.

However you chose to analyze and the conclusions you draw from the events in our world in which you have a front row seat determine the eternal destiny of your soul. God is being gracious and giving us ample opportunity to examine our own character, motivation, and service to the Kingdom walk.

You are left with two choices this morning – do nothing different and hope for the best. OR be determined to learn from history, informed about current events, and study the Holy Bible and live with assurance always seeking to grow in faith and obedience by first accepting Jesus as Savior and then by living and telling others of Jesus. I respectfully challenge you to invite someone every week to join you in worship. No matter how many times you have been turned down, be like the persistent widow and keep on trying.

And then we can fulfill our manifold destiny stated in: 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.*

This morning I saw this on the news for us in the United States: **The FBI and the Department of Homeland Security have issued a "Public Safety Notification" to law enforcement around the U.S., urging them to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity in the midst of the ongoing situation in Israel. The notice says the agencies "do not currently have specific intelligence indicating a threat to the United States stemming from the Hamas attacks in Israel" but that "foreign terrorist organizations and their supporters remain committed to attacking the United States within and beyond our borders."**

Our invitation hymn today is 425 Faith is The Victory

## Scriptures

Witness this video clip:... (Daniel will come up with this for us as soon as I introduce it in the first paragraph of the sermon.)

2 Peter 3:9

Romans 8:28

Psalms 122:6

Isaiah 62:1-12

Here is a picture of Gaza in relation to Israel. (Daniel has that)

Matthew: 24:6-8

1 Corinthians 15:51-52

2 Corinthians 1:3-4